

REVIEW.

Saturday, February 3. 1713.

AND what if, being writing of Commerce, I should tell you, there is a kind of Divinity in the Original of Trade, and if I spend one Review to put you in Mind, that God, in the Order of Nature, not only made Trade necessary to the making the Life of Man Easy, and towards accommodating one Part of the World with what they might want for their Conveniences, from another part; but also qualified, suited and adapted the Vegetative and Sensitive World, to be subservient to the Uses, Methods and Necessities which we add them now put to, by the ingenious Artists, for the Convenience of Trade? And it cannot be amiss to remind you, how unfitted for Trade, and how unable to carry it on the World had been, if these things had not been at first ordered by the Wise and that Governs the World.

Providence has adapted Nature to Trade, and made it subservient in all its Parts, to the several necessary Operations of Commerce.

What a Turn would it give to Affairs of Commerce in the World, if Heaven should either withhold the constant Influences of natural Instincts to the Creatures, or alter any Thing in the first stated Law of Things?

If Floaty Bodies, by natural Levity adapted to swim on the Surface of the Water, by change of Climate or other Accidents, could assume Gravity, there once would be an end of all Navigation, and a Ship that swims in one Sea, would immediately sink to the Bottom in another; if the Law of Gravity, by which every heavy Body tends downward, should either cease in general, or alter in particular Places, upon every Storm of Wind, the Waters of the Sea would stand in Clusters and Heaps, vast Chasms would appear in the Deep, and Navigation be of course Impracticable; and innumerable Instances of the kind would be found in all the other Common Operations of Obedient Nature.

How naturally does the Water, mov'd by the mighty Winds, flow into every Hollow, and fill up every vacant Part in the Sea; the innumerable Particles diligently croud on the Heels of one another, to supply the Place of those forc'd away, and those

that are forc'd from their Place by an unusual Gust, immediately return to fill up the first Emptiness they find? When the Ship, toss'd by the Fury of the contending Element, and mounted on the Surface of a Rolling Body of disordered Water, seems to be falling into a vast Gulph of Destruction, how do the same Waves hurry into the Hollow Place, and catching it in their soft Arms, prevent its Descent to the Solid Bottom, where it would be dash'd in a Thousand Pieces, and gently raise it up again by their united Force, and having brought it to their Surface, launch it forward to receive the same kind of Usage from the next?

Thus obedient Nature, true to its own Laws, preserves the Communication of one part of the World with another, and lays the Foundation of Commerce, which would otherwise be altogether Impracticable and Impossible.

Let us take a short View of the Land; the Subjection of all the Creation to the Dominion of Man, when his Maker first made him Lord of this Wide Place we call the World, is to me the most signal Discovery of a Sovereign Invisible Power, that can be found in the whole Frame of it.

What has made the useful part of the Creatures Tame, Docile, Tractable and Submissive, while the less needful Part are left Wild, and at War with us? Should the Sovereign Lord of this Globe arm the Creatures against us, cause them to declare an Universal War with Mankind, and let them loose to the Exercise but of that Strength, and those Weapons which he has given them; Nay, should he but remove that Fear and Awe of Man that stands fix'd in their Nature, how useless would they be to Mankind, and with what Difficulties should we live; what a Turn would it give to Trade, what a universal Stop to all manner of Commerce?

If the Horse would not be Rid, nor the Ox Draw, nor the Cow be Milk'd;

If your Sheep were not the tamest, quietest, submissiveest Creatures in the World, that lay their Throats down to your Knife, and their Backs to the Sheers; if the Ox would not go into your very Slaughter-house, to be kill'd, instead of having the Trade of

of a Butcher, and a few Men in every Village supplying us with Provisions, all Business would be set apart, and we should be forc'd to turn Hunters, Archers and Gunners, for our Food; your Country would all be thrown open, and turn'd into Common; and enclosing of Land, would be only to keep Cattle out, not to keep them in; Property in Cattle would cease, *The Ox*, would, no more, know, *his Owner*, nor the *Ass* his Master Crib; the Horse would shew you his Heels, and the Cow her Horns: The Dog would Bark at you, not for you, and Hunt for himself, not for your Table: You must Draw your own Ploughs, and carry your own Burthens: The Ladies must go on Foot, and the Kings and Queens, be content with the Services and Labours of their own Kind: Commerce would cease, and no more People could Dwell in a Country, than the Land itself would Maintain.

How Blind then, must those People be, that can look round them on the Disposition of the Creation, How subjected to Man's Authority, and adapted to his Use, and not acknowledge the Infinite Superintendency of Invisible Providence?

If such Depravity rests still on the Minds of any Creature, vested with Reason, I can only recommend to him, the Exercise of his Reason, upon some such Contemplations as these; and whether it will lead him to the Gate of that Knowledge, to which Life and Happiness is annex'd, I will not determine, *for that appears to have different Channels of Conveyance*; but certainly, it will carry him thus far, that he must Immediately conclude, that there is not a Power supreme only, but supremely Wise, and supremely Good, which Governs the World. The Force these Natural Convictions have on the dark Reason of unlightned Nations, seems, to me, to be Original of that Universal Inclination to acknowledge a God, where it has not pleaded God, to give any other Discovery of himself.

This is a large Field, and too great to enter into here; but the present Use I shall make of it, and indeed, the Reason of my bringing this Subject into these Papers, is this, to let thoughtless People see, how Providence concurs in, and seems to have prepared the World for Commerce; assists us in the Diligent Pursuit of useful Improvement, and seems to expect Trade should be Preserved, Encouraged, and Extended by all Honest and Prudent Methods, as a stated Provision, made for the Support and Maintenance, Employment and Improvement of his Creatures, especially for mutual Assistance, Comfort, and Support of Nations and Families, where more People are collected, than the bare Fruits of the Earth can maintain.

Without these Methods of Trade, the *due Disposition* of what the Wisdom of God had furnish'd the World with, could not have been made: Metals designed, no doubt, for universal Use, but nor to Nature in proper Receptacles, could not be diffus'd to the several Parts, which are left without: Wines, Oyls, Silks, Iron, Marble, &c. Wool, Brimstone, and sundry other Goods, produce *France, Spain, Italy, &c.* would not have compleated the Delightful Habitations, Accommodations, Comfortable Living of the Inhabitants, without Gold and Ivory of *Africa*, the Silver of *Hungaria*, *America*; the Lead and Tin of *Britain*, the Gold of *Swedeland*, the Sugar and Tabacco of the *Indies*, the Furs of the North, and the Spices of the *Southern*, none, or very few of which, are found in all the Delicious Countries of *France, Spain, or Italy*.

Shall any tell me, that God in his Infinite Providence did not guide Nations, by invisible Directings into Trade, and lead them by the Hand, into the Methods, Manner, and Consequences, to render Commerce both easy and useful?

The very Position of Things, in the World, would confound the Opposer of such a plain Assertion; Navigation of Rivers letting us into the very Hearts and Center of Countries, from whence the Groceries and Produce of those Countries, otherwise too remote for any tolerable Conveyance, is to be brought away: The Natural Assistance of long undiscovered Gulches to Navigation, such as the fix'd Stars, Magnet, the wonderful Assistance of Humane Art, directed by Experience, in the meer Perfection of the Science of Navigation; the furnishing all Maritime Nations with Materials for Shipping, and the like, as they are instanc'd before, to be Foundations of Commerce, so they are undeniable Testimonies, of the Infinite Foreknowledge of Divine Wisdom, and of the Appointments Providence had made for the Employing and Improving the People that were to come upon this Earth.

The Encrease of this Commerce, therefore, receives its Rise from the daily Discoveries more and more, of what lies treasur'd up in the Bowels of the Earth, or in the Remote Parts of Uninhabited Deserts, and Unnavigated Seas, Bays, Channels, and Retreats of the Waters. The Search after new Things has met with wonderful Success, and the Finger of Providence has been more than usually visible in the bringing Things to Light, in these latter Ages of Trade, which our Ancestors knew not, and doubtless, Providence has yet an inexhaustible Store of undiscovered Advantages in Trade, both to Encourage the Industry, and Reward the Hazard of enquiring Posterity; into some of which, perhaps these Sheets may make no unpleasant Enquiry.